

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00863 021235Z

53

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, FI, XZ, EEC, XG

SUBJECT: FINNISH VIEWS ON EUROPEAN LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

1. SCANDINAVIAN LABOR COOPERATION IS BEING REALIGNED
ACCORDING TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION (SAK) NILO HAMALAINEN. HAMALAINEN, WHO
WAS GUEST OF LABOR ATTACHE IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING
FROM NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION (NTUF) MEETING IN
STOCKHOLM APRIL 29-30, SAID THAT THE SESSION HAD
"CLEARED THE AIR" WITH REGARD TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE DANISH LO AND THE UNIONS IN THE NON-EEC MEMBER
COUNTRIES. AT ONE POINT THE NORWEGIANS, SWEDES AND
FINNS CAUCUSED WITHOUT THE DANES. THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE FINNISH LABOR MINISTRY, WHO WAS ALSO
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00863 021235Z

AT DINNER, ADDED THAT THE EXCLUSION OF THE DANES

FROM CERTAIN SCANDINAVIAN DELIBERATIONS WAS A GROWING TREND. HE FORESEES THE SAME DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

2. A MAJOR SUBJECT AT ISSUE AT THE NTUF MEETING WAS THE CANDIDACY OF DANISH LO PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSON FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). ACCORDING TO HAMALAINEN IT IS NOW PRACTICALLY CERTAIN THAT THE NEXT ETUC PRESIDENT WILL BE HEINZ VETTER OF THE WEST GERMAN DGB. VETTER HAS APPARENTLY AGREED "NOT TO OPPOSE" THE ADMISSION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST FEDERATION, THE CGIL, TO THE ETUC. HAMALAINEN SAID CGIL AFFILIATION WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN MAY, IMPLYING THAT THE ETUC EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE THE DECISION. THE BRITISH TUC, WHOSE LEADER LEN MURRAY WAS ALSO IN STOCKHOLM CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE CGIL MEMBERSHIP ACCORDING TO HAMALAINEN. WITH THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE ON ITS WAY TO SOLUTION NIELSON'S CANDIDACY IS UNLIKELY TO GET OFF THE GROUND AND THE OTHER SCANDINAVIANS WILL NOT BE FACED WITH CHOOSING BETWEEN HIM AND VETTER.

3. LOOKING FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD HAMALAINEN FORESAW THE ADMISSION OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST FEDERATION, THE CGT, TO THE ETUC IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. HE CONSIDERED YUGOSLAV ADHESION HIGHLY UNLIKELY AND THOUGHT THE ETUC WOULD CONSOLIDATE ITSELF ON A WESTERN EUROPEAN BASE. HAMALAINEN SAID THAT THE TRADITIONS OF WESTERN FREE TRADE UNIONS ARE DEEP, RUNNING BACK FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS. CLOSE COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THESE TRADITIONS AND IS NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR IN ANY FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
KREHBIEL

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